commerce and handicrafts at that time were not yet strictly divided. Other handicrafts, *e.g.* those of bakers and butchers, had to be practised by them, as, according to the Mosaic law, bread and meat for consumption by Jews must be prepared by Jews. In Central and Western Europe the Jews were, however, gradually squeezed out from most of the crafts by the guilds, which aimed at protecting the Christian artisans against extraneous competition. Only in Eastern Europe, where the guild system was never completely established, and a class of Christian artisans did not arise till much later, were the Jews able to engage in practically all handicrafts, almost without limitation.

Handicrafts were the first position on which the Jews fell back in their enforced retreat from the overcrowded commercial occupations. Agriculture came next, but the Jews turned to it only where even handicrafts no longer offered them a livelihood; and even then, almost only where the Government or some big Colonization Societies facilitated such a transition. The Russian Government did so in the beginning of the nineteenth century, and Jewish welfare societies towards its end. Carpatho-Russia is an exception. It belonged till 1919 to Hungary, and early in the nineteenth century was a refuge for Jews evading military service in the neighbouring countries. It was a very

backward country and offered few chances in commerce or handicrafts, and there the Jews were forced to take to agriculture and live the life of peasants. To this day there are a few thousand Jewish families in Carpatho-Russia for whom agriculture is the main, or an auxiliary, occupation, supplying them with potatoes and milk, their staple food. Their number has diminished in the last twenty or thirty years, owing to emigration and to their taking to commerce.

While the Jews took to handicrafts and agriculture only if forced by circumstances, they passed of their own choice into big industry and the professions; these, both in social rank and in income, were often superior even to